



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/748,227	12/31/2003	Haruo Machida	03500.014453.1	7138
5514 7590 08/23/2007 FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112			EXAMINER DINH, KHANH Q	
			ART UNIT 2151	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 08/23/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/748,227	Applicant(s) MACHIDA, HARUO	
	Examiner Khanh Dinh	Art Unit 2151	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-47 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-47 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/560,184.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/9/04, 10/5/06</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is in response to the preliminary amendment filed 3/9/2004. Claims 1-47 are presented for examination.

Priority

2. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in parent Application No. 09/560,184, filed on 4/28/2000.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-6, 8-11, 13-16, 18-37, 39, 40, 43-45 and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Rosenberg et al., US pat. No.6,317,116.

As to claim 1, Rosenberg discloses a data processing apparatus capable of data communications with various devices (12, 228 fig.3) connected with a communication medium, comprising:

Art Unit: 2151

acquisition means for acquiring function information, connection information and status information of each device through communication with the device (10 fig.3) (see abstract, fig.3, col.3 lines 15-54 and col.4 line 34 to col.6 line 63);

management means for storing and managing the function information, connection information and status information acquired by said acquisition means and system displaying means for displaying a system configuration on a display unit by using icons, in accordance with the connection information and status information stored and managed by said management means (see figs. 3, 5, col.6 line 35 to col.7 line 54);

designation means for designating a combination of optional icons displayed on the display unit; function setting screen displaying means for displaying a setting screen for setting a combination function in accordance with the combination designated by said designation means and displaying a configuration image including an expansion function of each device designated by said designation means on the combination function setting screen in accordance with the function information stored and managed by said management means (see col.6 line 35 to col.7 line 54 and col.10 line 6 to col.12 line 6); and

control means for controlling a composite function operation of devices corresponding to the combination function in accordance with an execution designation on the combination function setting screen displayed by said function setting screen displaying means (tracking the movement of objects using position sensors and providing suitable electronic signals to the electronic interface, see col.5 line 11 to col.6 line 62 and col.14 line 11 to col.15 line 52).

Art Unit: 2151

As to claim 2, Rosenberg discloses said function setting screen displaying means displays a setting segment for an executable expansion function of each device on the combination function setting screen, in accordance with the function information of the device designated by said designation means (see col.10 line 6 to col.12 line 6).

As to claim 3, Rosenberg discloses editing means for editing and setting display contents on the setting segment for the executable expansion function of each device displayed by said function setting screen displaying means, wherein said function setting screen displaying means displays the setting segment for the executable function of the device on the combination function setting screen in accordance with an edit result by said editing means (see figs.3, 4, col.14 line 11 to col.15 line 67).

As to claims 4 and 5, Rosenberg discloses wherein the communication medium is connected with plural other data processing apparatuses communicable with the data processing apparatus and one of the plural data processing apparatuses is used as a management server (see figs.3, 4, col.14 line 11 to col.15 line 67 and col.17 line 53 to col.18 line 67).

As to claim 6, Rosenberg discloses that the management server can store and manage an expansion configuration image resource of each device, wherein said acquirement means acquires the expansion configuration image resource of each device transmitted from the management server each time the expansion configuration image resource of the device

Art Unit: 2151

including the expansion function of the device and managed by the management server is updated (see figs.3, 4, col.14 line 11 to col.15 line 67 and col.17 line 53 to col.18 line 67).

As to claim 8, Rosenberg discloses a data processing method for a data processing apparatus capable of data communications with various devices connected with a communication medium, comprising:

an acquirement step of acquiring function information, connection information and status information of each device through communication with the device and a management step of storing and managing the function information, connection information and status information acquired in said acquirement step (see abstract, fig.3, col.3 lines 15-54 and col.4 line 34 to col.6 line 63);

a system displaying step of displaying a system configuration on a display unit by using icons, in accordance with the connection information and status information stored and managed in said management step (see figs. 3, 5, col.6 line 35 to col.7 line 54);

a designation step of designating a combination of optional icons displayed on the display unit and a function setting screen displaying step of displaying a setting screen for setting a combination function in accordance with the combination designated in said designation step and displaying a configuration image including an expansion function of each device designated in said designation step On the combination function setting screen in accordance with the function information stored and managed in said management step (see col.6 line 35 to col.7 line 54 and col.10 line 6 to col.12 line 6); and

a function executing step of executing a composite function operation of devices corresponding

Art Unit: 2151

to the combination function in accordance with an execution designation on the combination function setting screen displayed in said function setting screen displaying step (tracking the movement of objects using position sensors and providing suitable electronic signals to the electronic interface, see col.5 line 11 to col.6 line 62 and col.14 line 11 to col.15 line 52).

As to claim 9, Rosenberg discloses said function setting screen displaying step displays a setting segment for an executable expansion function of each device on the combination function said function setting screen, in accordance with the function information of the device designated in said designation step (see col.10 line 6 to col.12 line 6).

As to claim 10, Rosenberg discloses an editing step for editing and setting display contents on the setting segment for the executable expansion function of each device displayed in said function setting screen displaying step, wherein said function setting screen displaying step displays the setting segment for the executable function of the device on the combination function setting screen in accordance with an edit result by said editing step (see figs.3, 4, col.14 line 11 to col.15 line 67).

As to claim 11, Rosenberg discloses a management server is provided which can store and manage an expansion configuration image resource of each device, wherein said acquisition step acquires the expansion configuration image resource of each device transmitted from the management server each time the expansion configuration image resource of the device

Art Unit: 2151

including the expansion function of the device and managed by the management server is updated (see figs.3, 4, col.14 line 11 to col.15 line 67).

As to claim 13, Rosenberg discloses a storage medium storing a computer-readable program for controlling a data processing apparatus capable of data communications with various devices connected with a communication medium, the program comprising:

an acquirement step of acquiring function, information, connection information and status information of each device through communication with the device (see abstract, fig.3, col.3 lines 15-54 and col.4 line 34 to col.6 line 63);

a management step of storing and managing the function information, connection information and status information acquired in said acquirement step and a system displaying step of displaying a system configuration on a display, unit by using icons, in accordance with the connection information and status information stored and managed in said management step (see figs. 3, 5, col.6 line 35 to col.7 line 54);

a designation step of designating a combination of optional icons displayed on the display unit and a function setting screen displaying step of displaying a setting screen for setting a combination function in accordance with the combination designated in said designation step and displaying a configuration image including an expansion function of each device designated in said designation step on the combination function setting screen in accordance with the function information stored and managed in said management step (see col.6 line 35 to col.7 line 54 and col.10 line 6 to col.12 line 6); and

a function executing step of executing a composite function operation of devices corresponding

Art Unit: 2151

to the combination function in accordance with an execution designation on the combination function setting screen displayed in said function setting screen displaying step (tracking the movement of objects using position sensors and providing suitable electronic signals to the electronic interface, see col.5 line 11 to col.6 line 62 and col.14 line 11 to col.15 line 52).

As to claim 14, Rosenberg discloses the function setting screen displaying step displays a setting segment for an executable expansion function of each device on the combination function said function setting screen, in accordance with the function information of the device designated in said designation step (see col.10 line 6 to col.12 line 6).

As to claim 15, Rosenberg discloses that the program further comprises an editing step for editing and setting display contents on the setting segment for the executable expansion function of each device displayed in said function setting screen displaying step, wherein said function setting screen displaying step displays the setting segment for the executable function of the device on the combination function setting screen in accordance with an edit result by said editing step (see figs.3, 4, col.14 line 11 to col.15 line 67).

As to claim 16, Rosenberg discloses a management server is provided which can store and manage an expansion configuration image resource of each device, wherein said acquirement step acquires the expansion configuration image resource of each device transmitted from the management server each time the expansion configuration image resource of the device

Art Unit: 2151

including the expansion function of the device and managed by the management server is updated (see figs.3, 4, col.14 line 11 to col.15 line 67).

As to claim 18, Rosenberg discloses a data processing apparatus capable of data communications with plural devices of different types installed remotely via data communication means path, comprising:

acquisition means for acquiring information for visually expressing an appearance of each device via the data communication means path (see abstract, fig.3, col.3 lines 15-54 and col.4 line 34 to col.6 line 63); and

display control means for displaying first image data having image data for visually expressing the appearance of the device on a display screen of a display unit, in accordance with the information acquired by said acquisition means, wherein the plural devices are independently connectable to an option unit (see figs.3, 5, col.6 line 35 to col.7 line 54 and col.10 line 6 to col.12 line 6), and

said display control means controls to change a display form of the first image data to be displayed on the display screen, in accordance with whether the option unit is connected or not or in accordance with a type of the connected option unit, even if the plural devices are of a same type having a same function (tracking the movement of objects using position sensors and providing suitable electronic signals to the electronic interface, see col.5 line 11 to col.6 line 62 and col.14 line 11 to col.15 line 52).

As to claim 19, Rosenberg discloses that the plural devices includes an image forming device for

Art Unit: 2151

forming an image on a sheet, and the option unit includes at least one of a sheet processing unit and a sheet feed unit (see col.10 line 6 to col.12 line 6).

As to claim 20, Rosenberg discloses that the information to be acquired by said acquirement means further includes information on an expansion function executable by each device, wherein said display control means displays the first image data in a first area of the display screen and displays a first function button corresponding to the expansion function executable by the device in a second area of the display screen, in accordance with the information acquired by said acquirement means (see figs.3, 4, col.14 line 11 to col.15 line 67).

As to claim 21, Rosenberg discloses that the display control means arranges and displays plural first function buttons corresponding to plural expansion functions in the second area of the display screen, if there are plural expansion functions executable by the device (see figs.3, 4, col.14 line 11 to col.15 line 67).

As to claim 22, Rosenberg discloses said display control means arranges and displays the first function button and a second function button corresponding to a function executable by the data processing apparatus in the second area of the display screen (see figs.3, 4, col.14 line 11 to col.15 line 67).

As to claim 23, Rosenberg discloses that the device includes an image forming device for forming an image on sheet and the first function button includes at least a function bottom for

Art Unit: 2151

designating one of a staple mode, a two-face printing mode, and a page layout mode (see figs.3, 4, col.14 line 11 to col.15 line 67).

As to claim 24, Rosenberg discloses a data processing apparatus capable of data communications with plural devices of different types installed remotely via data communication means path, comprising:

selection means for selecting any of said plural devices and acquirement means for acquiring information on a function executable by each said device selected by said selection means (see abstract, fig.3, col.3 lines 15-54 and col.4 line 34 to col.6 line 63);

display control means for displaying a first function button corresponding to the function executable by said device in a first area of a display screen of a display device, in accordance with the information acquired by said acquirement means (see figs.3, 5, col.6 line 35 to col.7 line 54 and col.10 line 6 to col.12 line 6);

wherein said display control means causes to display a first function button corresponding to a first function when the device selected by said selection means can execute the first function, and causes to display a second function button corresponding to a second function instead of the first function button corresponding to the first function when said device selected by said selection means cannot execute the first function but can execute the second function (tracking the movement of objects using position sensors and providing suitable electronic signals to the electronic interface, see col.5 line 11 to col.6 line 62 and col.14 line 11 to col.15 line 52).

As to claims 25 and 26, Rosenberg discloses said display control means arranges and displays

Art Unit: 2151

plural first function buttons corresponding to plural functions of the display screen, if there are plural functions executable by the device and changing means for changing a layout order of the plural first function buttons in the first area of the display screen (see figs.3, 4, col.14 line 11 to col.15 line 67).

As to claims 27 and 28, Rosenberg discloses that if there are area plural candidates for the function capable of being displayed in the first area of the display screen, selecting means for selecting a candidate to be displayed as the first function button, from the plural candidates, said display control means arranges and displays the first function button corresponding to the first function executable by the remotely installed device and a second function button corresponding to a second function executable by the data processing apparatus, in the first area of the display screen (see figs.3, 4, col.14 line 11 to col.15 line 67).

As to claim 29, Rosenberg discloses changing means for changing a layout order of plural function buttons including the first and second function buttons in the first area of the display screen (see col.10 line 6 to col.12 line 6).

As to claim 30, Rosenberg discloses a data processing method for a data processing apparatus capable of data communications with plural devices of different types installed remotely via data communication means path, comprising:

an acquirement step of acquiring information for visually expressing an appearance of each device via the data communication means path (see abstract, fig.3, col.3 lines 15-54 and col.4

Art Unit: 2151

line 34 to col.6 line 63); and

a display controlling step of displaying first image data having image data for visually expressing the appearance of the device on a display screen of a display unit, in accordance with the information acquired in said acquirement step (see figs.3, 5, col.6 line 35 to col.7 line 54 and col.10 line 6 to col.12 line 6),

wherein the plural devices are independently connectable to an option unit, and said display controlling step controls to change a display form of the first image data to be displayed on the display screen, in accordance with whether the option unit is connected or not or in accordance with a type of the connected option unit, even if the plural devices are of a same type having a same function (see col.5 line 11 to col.6 line 62 and col.14 line 11 to col.15 line 52).

As to claim 31, Rosenberg discloses a storage medium storing a computer-readable program for executing a program for controlling a data processing apparatus capable of data communications with plural devices of different types installed remotely via data communication means path, the program comprising:

an acquirement step of acquiring information for visually expressing an appearance of each device via the data communication means path (see abstract, fig.3, col.3 lines 15-54 and col.4 line 34 to col.6 line 63); and

a display controlling step of displaying first image data having image data for visually expressing the appearance of the device on a display screen of a display unit, in accordance with the information acquired in said acquirement step (see figs.3, 5, col.6 line 35 to col.7 line 54 and col.10 line 6 to col.12 line 6),

Art Unit: 2151

wherein the plural devices are independently connectable to an option unit, and said display controlling step controls to change a display form of the first image data to be displayed on the display screen, in accordance with whether the option unit is connected or not or in accordance with a type of the connected option unit, even if the plural devices are of a same type having a same function (see col.5 line 11 to col.6 line 62 and col.14 line 11 to col.15 line 52).

Claims 32 and 33 are rejected for the same reasons set forth in claims 24 and 25 respectively.

Claims 34 and 35 are rejected for the same reasons set forth in claims 24 and 25 respectively.

As to claim 36, Rosenberg discloses a data processing apparatus capable of data communications with various devices connected with a communication medium, comprising:

first setting means for setting a specific image processing condition for a desired device and second setting means for setting a specific image processing condition executable by the data processing apparatus (see abstract, fig.3, col.3 lines 15-54 and col.4 line 34 to col.6 line 63);

image processing means for processing image data input from each device to execute a specific image editing processing, in accordance with the specific image processing condition set by one of said first and second setting means and control means for outputting the image data processed by said image processing means from one of the devices (see figs.3, 5, col.6 line 35 to col.7 line 54 and col.10 line 6 to col.12 line 6);

selection means for selecting any of said various devices; and display control means for causing a display device to display a display screen having a display section including said first setting means and said second setting means, wherein said display control means makes display contents

Art Unit: 2151

of said display section on said display screen customizable with respect to each selection result of said selection means (see col.5 line 11 to col.6 line 62 and col.14 line 11 to col.15 line 52).

As to claim 37, Rosenberg discloses said image processing means executes the specific image editing processing for image data input from each device, in accordance with the specific image processing condition set by said second setting means, the specific image editing processing including an image effect editing processing and stamp addition editing processing (see figs.3, 5, col.6 line 35 to col.7 line 54 and col.10 line 6 to col.12 line 6).

As to claim 39, Rosenberg discloses said control means outputs the processed image data or image data input from each device from another device (see figs.3, 5, col.6 line 35 to col.7 line 54 and col.10 line 6 to col.12 line 6).

Claims 40, 41 and 43 are rejected for the same reasons set forth in claims 36, 37 and 39 respectively.

Claims 44, 45 and 47 are rejected for the same reasons set forth in claims 36, 37 and 39 respectively.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC ' 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 2151

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 7, 12, 17, 38, 42 and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rosenberg et al US pat. No.6,317,116.

Rosenberg's teachings still applied as in item 3 above. Rosenberg does not disclose that those devices including a printer, a fax machine, a digital copying machine, a scanner, a digital camera, and a modem. However, such devices are well known in the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the communication art that the uses of different well-known devices are merely a matter of engineering choice because choice of devices which would have provided more utilizations of the computer system in a network environment.

Other prior art cited

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- a. Kakimoto et al, US pat. No.6,751,648.
- b. Hikada et al, US pat. No.6,782,402.
- c. Umebyashi et al, US pat. No.6,819,441.

Art Unit: 2151

Conclusion

8. Claims 1-47 are rejected.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Khanh Dinh whose telephone number is (571) 272-3936. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.m. to 5:00 P.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Zarni Maung, can be reached on (571) 272-3939. The fax phone number for this group is (571) 273-8300.


Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for patents

P O Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



KHANH DINH
PRIMARY EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100